

1.-53. (Cancelled).

54. (Currently Amended) A method for use with at least first and second resources to be arranged to perform a process within a space, the method for validating likely correct resource communications and comprising the steps of:

providing a rule set including rules that indicate probable relative resource positions;

specifying that a first resource communicates with a second resource;

identifying the relative juxtapositions of the first and second resources;

determining if the relative juxtapositions of the first and second resources are improbable consistent with the rule set; and

where, the relative juxtapositions of the first and second resources are improbable inconsistent with the rule set, performing a secondary function.

55. (Original) The method of claim 54 further including the step of providing a rule set including rules that indicate probable relative resource juxtapositions wherein the step of determining includes determining if the relative juxtapositions of the first and second resources are consistent with the rule set.

56. (Original) The method of claim 55 wherein the rule set indicates a maximum distance between the second resource and a reference point within the space such that, when the distance between the reference point and the second resource is greater than the maximum distance, the relative juxtapositions of the first and second resources are inconsistent with the rule set.

57. (Original) The method of claim 56 wherein the reference point is the location of the first resource.

58. (Original) The method of claim 55 wherein the secondary function is to indicate that the specified communication is improbable.

59. (Original) The method of claim 55 wherein the method is performed in real time as a resource is added to a sub-set of resources to perform the process.

60. (Original) The method of claim 55 wherein the method is performed in batch after a sub-set of resources has been configured to perform the process.

61. (Original) The method of claim 55 further including the steps of correlating logical network addresses with space locations and wherein the step of identifying the relative positions of the first and second resources includes specifying a network address for each of the first and second resources, determining the locations of the first and second resources from the correlated information and using the first and second resource locations to determine relative positions of the first and second resources.

62. (Original) The method of claim 55 wherein the environment includes an automated manufacturing facility.

63. (Currently Amended) A method for use with at least first and second resources to be arranged to perform a process within an environment, the method for validating likely correct resource communications and comprising the steps of:

providing a rule set including rules that indicate probable relative resource positions;

specifying a first spatial relationship between first and second resources;
determining if the specified spatial relationship between the first and second resources is ~~improbable~~ consistent with the rule set; and

where the specified spatial relationship between the first and second resources is ~~improbable~~ inconsistent with the rule set, performing a secondary function.

64. (Original) The method of claim 59 wherein the environment includes an automated manufacturing facility.

65. (Original) A method for use with a plurality of resources to be arranged to perform a process, the method for validating likely correct resource communications and comprising the steps of:

- providing a rule set including rules that indicate probable relative resource positions;

- correlating logical network addresses with environment locations;

- specifying first and second network addresses for a first and a second resources, respectively;

- specifying that the first resource communicates with the second resource;

- identifying the network addresses of the first and second resources;

- using the network addresses of the first and second resources to determine the relative positions of the first and second resources;

- determining if the first and second resource relative positions are consistent with the rule set; and

- where the relative positions of the first and second resources are inconsistent with the rule set, performing a secondary function.

66. (Original) The method of claim 65 wherein the rule set indicates a maximum distance between the first and second resources such that, when the distance between the first and second resources is greater than the maximum distance, the relative positions of the first and second resources are inconsistent with the rule set.

67. (Original) The method of claim 66 wherein the step of performing a secondary function includes indicating an improbable resource configuration.

68. (Currently Amended) A method for use with a plurality of resources to be linked via a network within an environment to perform a process and a processor running a program to control the process, the program including at least one of a program input and a program output tag for each of the resources, the method for facilitating association of tags and resources and comprising the steps of:

associating a space within the environment with the process;
providing at least a first information device that includes a processor;
determining the location of the information device within the environment; and
when the information device is proximate at least a sub-space within the space,
using the processor to automatically perform the steps of:

- (i) identifying the resources to be positioned within the sub-space;
- (ii) identifying the tags associated with the resources; and
- (iii) indicating the tags associated with the resources.

69. (Original) The method of claim 68 further including the steps of, for at least a first of the resources, identifying the resource to the network and indicating one of the tags via the information device that is to be associated with the resource and, wherein, the method further includes the step of associating the identified resource with the indicated tag.

70. (Original) The method of claim 69 wherein the step of identifying the resource includes linking the resource to the network.

71. (Original) The method of claim 70 wherein the information device includes a display and wherein the step of identifying the tags includes providing a list of the tags and the step of indicating one of the tags includes selecting one of the tags from the list.

72. (Original) The method of claim 69 wherein each of the resources is associated with a network address and wherein the step of associating includes determining the resource address and correlating the resource address with the tag.

73. (Original) The method of claim 72 wherein the step of 72 wherein the process is repeated for each resource to be located within the sub-space.

74-97. (Cancelled).